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Attribute this submission to: James William Bricker
Organization: None
Title of Hearing: Hearing on Responding to Long-Term Unemployment

Dear Chairman McDermott and honorable committee members.

I respectfully urge you to consider extending unemployment benefits for as long as possible for 2010.

I have been unemployed since November 2008 and have no prospects for employment.

I worked as an IT manager for a company for 30 years who moved our production facility over seas and has outsourced IT support to now be handled by the corporate facility in Tulsa OK. Our company once employed 130 and now is reduced to 35 through what is called a reduction in force program.

In an effort to see employment and to make myself more employable I have taken the following steps to enhance my chances of success.

- Attended UMass Lowell College using my own money to finish my degree
- Attended Valley Works unemployment center seeking help in my jobs search
- Registered with an employment agency in Boston
- Registered with an employment agency in my home town of Acton
- Assisted in the development of a networking support group with my Church, Acton Congregational
- Posted my resume at several job seeking websites
- Networking through Classmates.com
- Networking through LinkedIn
- Sent emails to all of my friends and former business associates asking for help

As a result of these efforts for the last 19 months, I receive few responses from online submissions and the few I do receive seem to have eliminated the jobs posting or have found the posting to expire. I have done extensive job searching through USAJOBS.COM hoping to land a government job. Many of the positions require very specific talents or require a security clearance which one cannot acquire on their own.

Having to also pay for my health insurance which is required by law is depleting our savings. We are now taking the steps that we have feared for several months now by listing our house for sale in an effort to make ends meet. I am 54 years old and have worked hard all of my life and have never been out of a job. It's very difficult to look into my wife's and daughter's eyes and tell them that I'm doing everything I can to find work, but to no avail.

Please help me and others like me who are hard working honest Americans trying to do the best we can. I know how great this country is and I'm confident that things will turn around but folks like me need help.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kind regards,

James W Bricker